

Regionalization considered once again by Council

by Mary Lou Byrnf

Dillsburg Borough and Carroll Township officials again are considering regionalizing the area police force, Council President John Creavey announced Tuesday evening.

"This has been brought about by mutual interest of the borough and the township to provide a type of security for our people at a rate we can afford," he explained.

The officials are in the very early stages of discussion, Creavey explained.

"We need more meetings to iron out a few procedural points to determine how the borough and the township are going to pursue this together," he said.

Former Dillsburg mayor, Donald S. Kams, a visitor at the council meeting, told the council that the borough was willing to regionalize for years, but attempts to do so were unsuccessful.

"I think more interest is shown now because of what it's starting to cost," Kams said.

Regionalization can save money by cutting down on unnecessary duplicated services provided by separate police forces, according to State Representative John H. Broujos, chairman of the boroughs subcommittee of the House Local Government Committee.

By regionalizing forces, local governments can consolidate the costs of training, wages, vehicles, equipment, insurance, and overhead, according to a Broujos news release last July.

In the release, Broujos lauded the nearby, 17-year-old Northern York Regional Police Force as "a model of professionalism and competency."

"It is a sound and economical concept," the representative concluded.

Broujos based these conclusions on a 21-page report entitled, "The Regional Police Force in Pennsylvania: Maintaining Municipal Control Over a Regional Entity." The report, sponsored by Broujos,

was submitted in December 1988 by Major Jan Baldi, then a graduate student in public affairs at Shippensburg University.

According to the report, the advantages of police consolidation are as follows:

- Efficient distribution and deployment of police personnel.

- Improved police management and supervision.

- Uniformity of police enforcement.

- Coordination of law enforcement services.

- Improvement in personnel training and efficiency.

- Cost reduction by sharing services and operating with fewer officers, vehicles and equipment.

- Improved communications which can lead to easier coordination of activities during an emergency.

- Removal of politics from the police department.

The report also listed the following disadvantages of police consolidation.

- Loss of citizen contact.

- Loss of local services such as flag raising, running errands for local officials, and collecting money from parking meters.

- Loss of local control. A special board or commission operates the police agency.

- Loss of the desire for local self-government.

According to the report, the last "disadvantage" listed is perhaps the greatest barrier to police consolidation.

"It is not always easy to convince citizens that regional police forces are self-governing, and that taking the community's name off their police cars, changing the location of the police headquarters, or changing the telephone numbers do not make the police units alien or unresponsive to the communities they serve," the report stated.

Opponents of regionalization have maintained that regional police forces are less likely to enforce local ordinances and deal with nuisances such as barking dogs and abandoned cars, according to the report.



The driver of the car, Julie Ann Fetrow, told rescue personnel her boyfriend was still in the sunken car. State Police said Fetrow was traveling alone.

Car drives off bridge killing fisherman

Story and photos by David March

A Camp Hill man was killed Tuesday while fishing with his son at Pinchot Park off Rosstown Road in Warrington Township.

Morris Stanley Sr., 55, of 15 Palmer Drive, Camp Hill, and his son were fishing on the Rosstown side of the bridge, on the embankment.

A car operated by Julie Ann Fetrow, 24, was traveling East on Route 177, went out of control, crashed through the guardrail at least 30 feet before the bridge, became airborne,

severing small tree branches. Before landing in the lake, Fetrow's vehicle struck Stanley in the head and chest, pushing him into the water.

Fetrow somehow managed to free herself from the wreckage and was pulled to safety by fisherman on the other side of the bridge.

According to State Police, Fetrow, of Wellsville, was traveling at an apparent high rate of speed. She has not yet been charged.

Stanley died instantly from massive head and chest trauma, according to York County Coroner Kathryn Foreman-Olewieler. His body was recovered at 7:40 p.m. by a diver from New Cumberland River Rescue in 10 feet of water about 15 feet off shore.

Stanley had been fishing for less than an hour, having just bought his fishing license at the Sportsman's Connection in Dillsburg at 5:50 p.m. that day.

Wellsville Fire Chief Michael Gasswint said Ms. Fetrow had told rescuers her boyfriend, John Wiley of Chestnut Street, Wellsville was still in the submerged car, prompting a search for his body in the murky water.

When Wiley later showed up at York Hospital to visit his girlfriend, the search was called off.

"Apparently, Wiley and Ms. Fetrow had a dispute earlier at Wiley's residence, Chief Gasswint said. Fetrow went speeding off in the direction of Pinchot alone.

The Rt. 177 bridge was closed for over 3 hours.



Fetrow is checked out at the scene before being taken to York Hospital.



Rescue workers enlisted the aid of anglers with boats to help search for the body of the dead fisherman.

Franklinton sex offender jailed

Phillip H. Wolfe, 42, of Water Street, Franklinton, was sentenced recently in York County Court by Judge Erb to a 5-10 year prison term.

Wolfe was arrested last May 5th for sexually molesting his neighbor's child. Police were summoned to the residence by the girl, after Wolfe chased her into the bathroom of her home, forced open the door with a knife and attempted to rape her.

According to Dillsburg Police Detective Joe LaPorta, the rape attempt was thwarted by a knock on the door.

The next day, the girl, then 17 years old, called Dillsburg Police and told them of the 14 years of rape and sexual assault on her by her neighbor, Wolfe.

Wolfe was sent to Camp Hill State Prison on the 30th of April where he is serving 5-10 years for involuntary deviant sexual intercourse, 5-10 years for rape, 1-2 years for statutory rape, 6-13 months for indecent assault and 2-12 months for defiant trespass. All sentences are to run concurrently.

Similar charges against the girl's father were dropped because the victim refused to testify. The girl's mother had been charged by Dillsburg Police with endangering the welfare of a child. Those charges were dropped by District Magistrate Paul Walters.

Memorial Day festivities begin this Sunday

The annual Memorial Day celebration will be held this Sunday May 27th. The flag raising will be held at the Community Hall at 1:45 p.m., followed by a parade through town at 2:00 p.m. to the Dillsburg Cemetery. At 2:15 p.m. a guest speaker will speak at the cemetery.